(b) if so, what are the detailed functions thereof ;

(c) what are the checks and balances intended to be used by Government to ensure the latest and correct market-related information, give details thereof ;

(d) whether this 'Trade -Point' will collect information from the country about export surplus available product-wise and commodity-wise to channelise it for exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Trade Point is a gateway to global newtworking & is a source of trade related information which provides actual and potential traders with data about business and market opportunities potential clients and suppliers, trade regulations and requirements, etc.,; Being a project set up under the UNCTAD's special programme on Trade Efficiency, the Trade Point receives electronic trading opportunities generated by the Trade Point Development Centre of UNCTAD to which the Trade Points set up in the world have been connected; the market related information is received from the Trade Points, set up in other countries with the sponsorship of the Governments and with participation by industry. The use of technology through electronic networking enables recent information being received and disseminated on-line through the Trade Point.

(d) and (e) Trade Point is not engaged in the collection of any primary statistics; however, export offers product-wise or commodity-wise, if received at the Trade Point can be disseminated through the Global Network.

Import cf Coal by Government of Gujarat

749. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government has granted permission to the Government of Gujarat to Import Coal ;

(b) if so, for what period ;

(c) whether the State Government has imported coal during the current financial year ; and

(d) if so, the quantity of coal imported during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d)Under the current Export and Import Policy, import of coal is freely permitted and in view of this, no permission for the import of coal is required from the Ministry of Commerce. State-wise import data is not maintained separately.

Commission on Labour Standard and Internationa! Trade

750. SHRI V. NARAYANA SAMY : Will th*; Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) when doss the commission, headed by Dr. Subramanian Swamy, on labour standards and international trade including social clause issue related to GATT, expects to submit its interim repor: as also the final report to Government;

(b) what are the ten::: of reference of this commission; and

(c) whether anyime-limit has been laid down for the commissions to submit its report; if not. the reasons thereof ?